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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Toru KAWAGUCHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2437

Appln. No. : 10/576,952

Examiner: D.J. Pearson

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window, Mail Stop <u>AF</u> Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated January 30, 2009, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on April 30, 2009, the period for response having been extended to expire on June 1, 2009 (May 30, 2009 falling on a Saturday) by the concurrent submission of a request for (one-month) Extension of Time, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the claims now pending.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper. Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.